

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Archie Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:00p.m. Executive Session, Vote to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5 (a) (1) , (a) (2), (a) (9) Interview Director of Technology/Systems Analyst, Contract Negotiations-Teachers, Collective Bargaining Grievances-Custodial

Those in attendance were: Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair; Mr. David Green; Mr. Jack Sommer; and Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters. Mr. Paul Martin and Mrs. Susan Records were absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent and Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration were also present.

7:38p.m. Regular Meeting

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the library of the Archie Cole Middle School at 7:38p.m. by Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair. Dr. Gifford announced there were two votes taken in executive session. One vote was regarding the Director of Technology and the other was regarding custodial

grievances. Both votes were unanimous 5-0.

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. Public Comments

Ms. Cheryl Osborne questioned Dr. Areglado's resignation from Meadowbrook Farms. She inquired about the process for a replacement. Dr. Mercurio will address this topic during his Superintendent's Report.

III. Recognitions

The Committee recognized the groups of students listed below.

- a. Cole 2012 Scholastic Art Award Winners**
- b. Cole Geography Bee Winner-Rachel Latham**
- c. Daniel Ling, EGHS – Intel Talent Search**

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular and Executive for 1/3/12**

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes for 1/13/12.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio announced that Dr. Areglado, Principal of Meadowbrook Farms, stepped down from his position effective today. Dr. Areglado announced his decision to the Meadowbrook staff and PTG today stating his resignation is due to personal reasons. Dr. Mercurio has reached out to see if he can fill the position in the short term by hiring a retiree and then post the job for a permanent replacement.

Dr. Areglado has been a tremendous asset to the district. He hopes to continue his work on the grade configuration committee. Dr. Mercurio discussed the Race to the Top meeting that he attended on January 12 -13, 2012 in Washington, D.C. He was part of a team of twelve which included RIDE representatives, school superintendents, state and local union leaders, and others from around the state. He discussed the work sessions that took place and the discussions with Secretary Duncan.

VI. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Durant asked Mrs. Crawford about the status of Aramark delinquent accounts. Mrs. Crawford has seen a reduction in outstanding balances. The Aramark cashiers continue to remind students' of their outstanding balance. Bi-weekly notices are being sent home. The "cheese sandwich" policy has not gone into effect yet. Mrs. Crawford will draft a letter to parents regarding the policy and will send a copy to the School Committee. Mrs. Crawford will look into the Aramark process because parent notification should be automatic when account funds have reached their minimum balance.

VII. Action Items

a. Appointments

- 1. Co-Advisor Cole Intramural Basketball-Stephanie Gloria**

b. Resignation

- 1. Tara Apperson, Frenchtown Paraprofessional**

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the

appointment (a) was approved and the resignation (b) accepted. The vote was 5-0.

c. Request for new 1:1 Paraprofessional to replace agency-contracted 1:1

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted 5-0 to table this request.

d. Aramark Contract

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to table this item.

e. Fields' MOU

Dr. Mercurio provided the Committee with the cover letter for the fields' MOU. There was discussion surrounding the dollar value of fertilization which includes all school fields. Historically the baseline cost has been \$19,000. Dr. Gifford would like the dollar value inserted on the cover sheet removing the "not to exceed" and adding "half of the fertilizer cost." Dr. Mercurio will discuss this with the Town Manager.

VIII. Presentation- Varnum Armory Inventory

Mr. Wilmarth, Director of Facilities, gave the Committee background information regarding the Varnum Armory. The current cost for the rental is \$9.87 a square foot or \$1,650 per month. Other spaces were reviewed, but the Varnum Armory has remained the best deal in town. Usage of the armory is not only for storage and the garage, but the heated areas are used for meeting space, carpentry, and a maintenance shop. The current lease will expire in June 2012. There are no areas in the school district that can store the supplies

currently housed at the armory. Dr. Gifford noted the Finance Committee asked the School Committee to examine the Varnum Armory space to see if there were any other possibilities. Mr. Wilmarth discussed his conversation with Mr. Duarte regarding other possibilities in town. One possibility is the construction of a building at the highway garage or using the garages located near the transfer station. 1500 square feet is needed along with heated storage for supplies, a yard for vehicles, a workshop, and garage. Dr. Gifford would like Mr. Wilmarth to continue his conversation with Mr. Duarte to pursue other options in town.

IX. Discussion Items

a. Update on East Greenwich High School Library Renovations and Technology

Dr. Mercurio noted the material for the exterior glass wall arrived yesterday and installation will be complete by the end of the week. Interior work such as painting and wall covering behind the circulation desk are in progress. Furniture, fixtures and equipment including metal shelving stacks are being installed this week. The items in the old gym will be moved to the new space starting next Wednesday. The new library space should be ready for occupancy the first week in February. Dr. Mercurio would like to hold the February 28, 2012 School Committee meeting in the new library. The Technology Advisory Committee meets this Friday for final review of the RFP. The bids will go out on Monday, January 23, 2012 and close on Monday February 6, 2012. The turnaround from bid award to completion is the first or second week in March. Dr. Gifford would

like the students and staff at EGHS to know the timeline between the completion of the library and the updating of the technology infrastructure. Dr. Mercurio will speak with Mr. Podraza.

b. East Greenwich High School Library hours

Dr. Mercurio has a meeting scheduled next week to discuss the hours. This item will be added to the January 26, 2012 agenda.

c. Update on Cole lighting

Dr. Mercurio spoke with Mr. Romeo today. The Siemens letter indicated that the infrastructure is working as intended. SMMA is working with their engineers to determine the issue. Mr. Durant noted the lights are off on the weekend. Today the computer crashed and was reset by Mr. Wilmarth. Mr. Romeo thinks the lights are more of a software problem. Dr. Gifford would like Mr. Romeo to prepare a report for the Committee that summarizes the status of the warranties. The Committee wants to ensure there is adequate warranty protection for the upcoming year. Dr. Gifford would like the report in writing by the next meeting. Dr. Gifford asked Dr. Mercurio to let Mr. Romeo know it is the responsibility of SBS to help the Committee understand this issue.

d. Set date for Presentation of Recommendations from Commission on Retaining High Quality Teachers

Dr. Gifford would like to have the Commission on Retaining High Quality Teachers present their findings at the February 7, 2012 meeting. Dr. Gifford would like to provide information to the public ahead of time.

e. Quarterly Financial Statement

Mrs. Crawford presented the quarterly financial statement as of December 31, 2011 which represents 6 months or 50% of the fiscal year. Mrs. Crawford discussed items that may affect the next six months including out-of -district placements and the utilities at Cole. The electric costs at Cole have exceeded the budget by about 30%. The forecast may have underestimated the cost.

The Committee discussed the lighting issue at Cole and whether the district can recoup those dollars once the official report from Siemens has been received. Mr. Green would like to see year-to-date actual dollars which indicate whether the district is on target.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:09 pm.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY